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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. At 1100 hours on 20 September 1996, when a captain in the Iraqi medical corps and two Iraqi privates, making a routine patrol within the Iraqi sector of the demilitarized zone, had reached a point opposite the Kuwaiti earthen embankment at a distance of 300 metres, an armed Kuwaiti squad consisting of five men emerged from behind the embankment and opened sustained fire on the Iraqi patrol. The Kuwaitis then compelled the members of the patrol to cross the ditch and the earthen embankment in the direction of the Kuwaiti side of the zone, together with the driver of a civilian water-supply truck that happened to be in the vicinity. They also fired on the civilian truck. The truck in question was subsequently seen by members of the UNIKOM mission, who took photographs of the bullet holes in it. After the intervention of the UNIKOM mission, Kuwait released the four men at 2000 hours on 28 September 1996 in front of the Hadiyah guard post near the Kuwaiti embankment.

2. At 1800 hours on 25 September 1996, two Kuwaiti boats, one white in colour with three persons aboard and the other black with two persons aboard, entered Iraqi territorial waters at coordinates 300100 on the 1:10000 Faw chart. After being detected by the Iraqi services covering that area, the boats withdrew to the Kuwaiti side.

3. At 1700 hours on 29 September 1996, a Kuwaiti patrol boat opened fire on an Iraqi patrol boat within Iraq's territorial waters near buoy No. 11 at coordinates 360015 on the 1:10000 Faw chart. The Kuwaiti boat subsequently headed in the direction of the Kuwaiti coast (approximately 25 to 30 km west of Mina al-Amiq).

I would request you to intervene with Kuwait in order to bring an end to such hostile acts, which have been frequent and are prejudicial to the sovereignty of the Republic of Iraq. Besides being flagrantly at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, they are aimed at destabilizing and creating a climate of tension in the region. I would also request you to confirm the above-mentioned acts as violations committed by the

Kuwaiti side in the demilitarized zone. I reaffirm the legitimate right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the harm sustained by Iraq and by its citizens and for the damage caused to their property as a consequence of these hostile acts, in accordance with the principle of international accountability.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative